Misuse of Ircon Aircraft by Railways

284. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railways misused Ircon Aircraft" published in the 'Statesman' dated the 25th December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Railways hired Ircon's aircraft at a number of times for unofficial purposes;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof:

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAIL WAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Budgetary Support for Dismal Internal Source Generation in the Railways

285. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought budgetary support from the Planning commission to overcome dismal internal source generation, during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The Railway's Annual Plan consists of Budgetary Support and Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources. Proposals at the time of ~ fixation of Annual Plans for next year are submitted to the Planning Commission which *inter-alia* discusses the financial position and likely availability of the resources for financing the Plan expenditure for next year. The position of

proposal for budgetary support demanded by the Railways during 2000-01 and 2001-02, and received by them is as under.

(Rs in crore)

Year	Budgetary support asked for	Budgetary support received (Budget Estimate)
200001	4450	329!
2001-02	3540	3540

The above does not include the one-time grant, sought for renewal/ replacement of overaged assets. During the year 2001-02 the Government has approved the setting up of a Rs. 17,000 crore fund for this purpose and contributed Rs. 1000 crore (out of the total Rs. 1400 crore for the year) towards this fund. It has also extended additional budgetary support of Rs. 898 crore to accelerate the completion of certain identified projects.

Superfast trains from Bhopal

† 286. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under Government's consideration to run superfast trains from Bhopal to Mumbai, Kolkata and Jaipur,

(b) if not, whether the Ministry of Railways would conduct the survey regarding these demands and requirements; and .

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Introduction of Habibganj-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express (weekly) (serving Bhopal-Mumbai), Bhopal - Howrah Express (weekly) and Durg-Jaipur Express (weekly) *via* Bhopal have been included in the Railways Budget 2002-2003.

Railway projects to private parties

287. SHRI CRAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways has awarded some important projects to private parties under BOLT Scheme during the last two years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.